GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3323
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
INDIA US AGREEMENT FOR GAS HYDRATES
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have signed any agreement for cooperation in the field of gas hydrates;

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

(c) the time by which the said agreement will be operational; and

(d) the extent to which the natural gas hydrate programme for exploratory research on the natural gas hydrates in the country will be boost after the implementation of the said MoU?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes Sir. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has signed an agreement on behalf of Government of India with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for cooperation in the field of gas hydrate on 17.2.2006.

(b) Under this agreement, the USGS and DGH were to conduct in depth studies prior, during and after the gas hydrate coring/drilling programme. The drillship JOIDES Resolution carried out drilling/coring programme for gas hydrates in Indian water during the period 28.04.06 to 19.08.06.The programme was named "NGHP Expedition 01".

Scientists from India and US are currently carrying out scientific studies in various laboratories & Institutes in India and abroad.

(c) The agreement was effective from 17.02.2006 and is still operational.

(d) Through the above Agreement, the "NGHP expedition 01" was taken up which established the presence of gas hydrates in Krishna Godavari, Mahanadi and Andaman offshore area.